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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [UNSC](#) [BM](#)
SUBJECT: NEW YORK UPDATE ON BURMA UNSCR

REF: A. STATE 3591
 [1](#)B. USUN 08
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Classified By: USUN Deputy Political Counselor Molly Phee, reasons 1.4
(b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (U) USUN placed the revised text of the draft Burma UNSCR
(ref A) "in blue" the afternoon of January 11. The Russian
delegation, which currently holds the Council presidency, has
scheduled a vote for 3:30 p.m. on January 12.

Veto Threats

[1](#)2. (C) Amb Wolff met with Chinese PR Wang for lunch January
[1](#)11. Wang said he was not/not yet instructed how to vote by
Beijing (expecting to receive instructions the evening of
January 11 or the morning of January 12 EST), but he fully
expected to be told to vote against the resolution. Amb
Wolff recalled a conversation the two held in December 2006
on this subject, when Amb Wolff asked if there were any
changes in language or form (i.e., a Presidential Statement
vice an UNSCR) the U.S. could consider that would respond to
Chinese concerns. Wang confirmed that his negative reply
then was still accurate now, and repeated the Chinese view
that the Security Council is not the appropriate venue to
deal with the issue of Burma and that Burma is not a threat
to peace and security. Amb Wolff made clear that U.S.
efforts to address the situation in Burma are directly
informed by our concerns about Burma; this initiative is not
intended to embarrass China. Wang replied that from China's
perspective, this matter had no/no implications for our
bilateral relationship. The vote would occur and we would
move on.

[1](#)3. (C) Russian PR Churkin and Russian DPR Dolgov confirmed
to Ambs Wolff and Sanders respectively that Russia intended
to follow China's lead and veto the resolution, echoing the
view that the subject of Burma is not an appropriate matter
for the Security Council and that Burma is not a threat.

Ongoing Negotiations

[1](#)4. (C) Amb Wolff has also spoken repeatedly with Indonesian
PR Jenie, who had asked the United States to delay the vote
until this weekend's ASEAN meeting in Cebu was concluded.
Amb Wolff told Jenie that if a delay in the vote would result
in Indonesia's abstention or better, the request for delay
would be seriously reviewed in Washington. Jenie said he
would check with Jakarta.

¶5. (C) Once the text was put into blue Thursday afternoon, Amb Wolff reached out to Chinese PR Wang and separately to Indonesian PR Jenie to ask if any additional changes to the text would affect their positions. In particular, he offered to modify PP13 (reftel) to read as follows: "Underlining the need for tangible progress in the overall situation in Myanmar in order to enhance peace and stability in the region." (Explanatory Note: This revised formulation replaces "security" with "stability" and eliminates the word "risk" to address the concerns of opponents.) With Jenie, Amb Wolff also intended to suggest that, if China vetoed, there would be no need for Indonesia to vote against the resolution.

¶6. (C) Qatari PR Nasser told Amb Wolff January 11 that he was as yet uninstructed. The South African expert told poloff January 11 that UN U/SYG (and Burma "good offices" envoy) Ibrahim Gambari had followed through on the U.S. request and pressed South African PR Kumalo to support the resolution. Kumalo, however, is reportedly awaiting Pretoria's guidance. The expert also noted that Kumalo had informed visiting MFA officials of his conversation with Gambari.

¶7. (C) Panamanian PR Arias confirmed January 11 Panama's support for the resolution. Ghana, Peru, and all five European delegations remain supportive. The French delegation independently asked the Chinese delegation January 11 if Beijing could support a PRST vice an UNSCR, and the Chinese said no. The French delegation did not/not suggest a delay in the vote because of ASEAN to USUN on January 11.

WOLFF